

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 over Brown

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,655,011 to Brown ("Brown"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 3 recite a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an **analog non-ring signal**. Claims 4-6 and 8-11 recite receiving an **analog non-ring signal** initiated by a caller at an analog telephone line interface indicating a presence of an incoming call to the voice messaging system. Claims 12-15 recite activating an analog **ring signal bypass module** based on a request from a calling party.

Brown discloses a system and method that allows routing of calls to various telephone devices through use of an identification code that identifies a particular telephone device using individually addressed extensions (see col. 4, lines 17-27). If a calling party simply wishes to leave a voice message for a residence, the calling party sets up the call with an identification code for answering machine 113 (see Brown, col. 4, lines 56-59). Upon receiving the identification code associated with the answering machine, the answering machine 113 immediately goes off-hook and begins its operation without disturbing any individual within a residence (see Brown, col. 4, lines 60-65).

Thus, Brown relies on the fact that the answering machine 113 **LACKS** ring capability. **ALL** calls addressed to Brown's answering machine 113 are automatically answered without ringing because of the **lack** of ring capability. Thus, since **ALL** calls directed to Brown's answering machine are answered without ringing, Brown fails to disclose or suggest any type of ring **BYPASS** module or **no-ring** signal, i.e., a system and method relying on a **ring signal bypass module** and an **analog non-ring signal** initiated by a caller, as recited by claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2 over Brown in view of Koyama

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Castro in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,505 to Koyama ("Koyama"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1, and is patentable for all the reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2 requires a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal.

As explained above, Bar clearly discloses use of an identification code that identifies a particular telephone device that **lacks** ringing capability. However, Koyama fails to cure the SIGNIFICANT and IMPORTANT features of claim 2.

Koyama is relied on to disclose an analog telephone line that is adapted to detect a line reversal at col. 10, lines 16-20 (see Office Action, page 7). However, Koyama relies on a line reversal to indicate that a transmission of calling party information has been started (see col. 10, lines 6-8). Koyama fails to disclose or suggest a line reversal for use with a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal, as recited by claim 2.

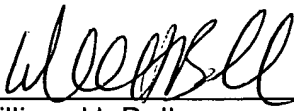
Thus, Brown theoretically modified by Koyama would still fail to disclose or suggest a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal, as recited by claim 2.

For these reasons, claim 2 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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